

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMO-04 SP-02 SS-15 ABF-01 NSC-05 PER-03

OMB-01 /042 W
----- 011017

R 200640Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4439
INFO AMCONSUL DHARHAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 2841

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, SA, US
SUBJECT: PRIORITY LISTING OF STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR SAUDI ARABIA

REF: JIDDA 0121

1. DURING RECENT VISIT OF MR. SOBER, IT WAS AGREED WE SHOULD LIST OUR STAFFING REQUIREMENTS IN PRIORITY ORDER TO ASSIST THE BUREAU IN MAKING REPRESENTATION TO CENTRAL AUTHORITIES. PRIORITY LISTING BELOW DISREGARDS FUNDING (I.E., PROGRAM OR SHARED). NARRATIVE JUSTIFICATION FOR EACH POSITION PROVIDED PREVIOUSLY BY REFTEL AND, IN SOME CASES, BY SUBSEQUENT MESSAGES.

2. POSITIONS REQUIRED MOST URGENTLY:

- A. FSO-5, CONSULAR OFFICER, DHARHAN
- B. FSO-4, PERSONNEL OFFICER, JIDDA
- C. FSS-7, SECRETARY, JIDDA
- D. FSS-7 SECRETARY, DHARHAN
- E. FSS-7, SECRETARY, JIDDA
- F. FSO-5/6 ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL, JIDDA

3. THE EMBASSY HAS REAPPRAISED ITS STAFFING PATTERN REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO MORE NEARLY SQUARE RESOURCES WITH THE REALITY OF THE DAILY WORKLOAD. THE EMBASSY IS DROPPING ITS REQUEST FOR THE CREATION OF A NEW FSO-3

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FINANCIAL OFFICER POSITION, BUT IS RECLASSIFYING POSITION

NO. 20-084 (LANGUAGE DESIGNATED) FROM ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL (O-4) TO FINANCIAL OFFICER (O-3). A NEW POSITION DESCRIPTION HAS BEEN PREPARED AND IS BEING SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL. DESCRIPTION STATES THAT "INCUMBENT (OF RECLASSIFIED POSITION) IS THE SENIOR FINANCIAL ECONOMIST AT POST."

4. IN LIEU OF REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL OFFICER, EMBASSY IS NOW REQUESTING THE APPROVAL OF ANOTHER FSO-5/6 ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL POSITION. RATIONALE FOR THIS CHANGE FOLLOWS: EMBASSY ECON/COMMERCIAL SECTION IS SO OVERBURDENED WITH BUSINESS VISITOR FLOW THAT CURRENT ANALYTICAL REPORTING IS VIRTUALLY RELEGATED TO THE NOOKS AND CRANNIES OF TIME AVAILABLE. OUR PLAN IS TO POST TWO ECON/COMM OFFICERS AT RIYADH (POSITION NOS. 20-5010-100 AND EVENTUALLY 20-5410-113) AND TWO ECON/COMM OFFICERS AT JIDDA COMMERCIAL CENTER (POSITION NO. 20-5410-102 AND POSITION WE ARE NOW REQUESTING). WE HOPE THIS WILL GREATLY INCREASE OUR ABILITY (A) TO "WORK" TO CORRIDORS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN RIYADH WHERE THE EARLY NEWS OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING PLANS IS GENERATED, AND (B) TO HANDLE MORE OF OUR BUSINESS VISITOR WORKLOAD AT THE COMMERCIAL CENTER, THUS FREEING UP ECON COUNSEGMAND FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR MORE SUBSTANTIVE REPORTING ROLES THAN PRESENTLY POSSIBLE. DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOT THAT NO NET NEW INCREASE IN POSITIONS IS CONTEMPLATED BEYOND THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN REQUESTED. IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT RECLASSIFYING POSITION NO. 20-084 AS FINANCIAL OFFICER WILL ALLAY CONCERNS THAT EMBASSY HAS NOT GIVEN SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO FINANCIAL REPORTING. WITH PROPER STAFFING OF THIS RECLASSIFIED POSITION, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FULFILL OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AREA.

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR RIYADH (OTHER THAN ECON/COMM) WILL BE SUBMITTED SEPTEL AFTER WE RECEIVE MORE GUIDANCE FROM MFA ON HOW SOON WE CAN BEGIN MOVE TO CAPITAL.
PORTER

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